

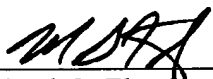
REMARKS

The Examiner restricted examination of claims 1-28 in this application. Specifically, the Examiner restricted claims 1-12 to Group I as directed to a method and claims 13-28 to Group II as directed to an apparatus. The Examiner asserted that the method claims in Group I are distinct from the apparatus claims in Group II because "the method can be accomplished in a conventional furnace or oven with preset temperatures and time." *See* Office Action, page 2. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's reasons for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1-12 of Group I. Therefore, Applicants cancel claims 13-28 of Group II without prejudice for possible inclusion in a divisional application. Lastly, Applicants note that claim 12 of Group I is a claim to a semiconductor wafer and is not a method claim. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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